technology encompassing wider process of social and economic change covering all stakeholders.

(iv) Basic and Strategic research in the frontier are of agricultural sciences.

The fields of research include production to comsumption system, sustainble rural livelihood improvement and basic and strategic research.

(d) The project is expected to be for a period of 6 years (01.07.2006 to 30.06.2012).

Skin diseases due to BT. Cotton

2426. SHRI B.J PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seeds of Bt. Cotton have been causing allergic reactions among farmers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result, the skin diseases among the farmers have assumed an alarming situation in certain regions of the country; and

(c) if so, the action plan to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There are no complaints on Bt. Cotton causing allergic reactions among the farmers. Further, Bt. Cotton was tested for its allergic reactions in Brown Norway Rats and found to be non-allergenic.

(c) Does not arise.

Bollworm disease problem

2427. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that premature release of Bt. Cotton varieties led to failure of cotton crops in South India, leading the farmers of cotton crops to the brink of suicide;

(b) whether it is also a fact that entomologists have sounded a grave warning on the scourge of the American Bollworm;